

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01

COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 /103 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6888

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 2787

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, EAID, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH UDEL PRESIDENT CORDOVA'S JUNE 16

SUMMARY: AMB AND POLOFF DISCUSSED OPPOSITION ATTITUDES AND US ASSISTANCE POLICY WITH UDEL PRESIDENT RAFAEL CORDOVA RIVAS ON JUNE 16. CORDOVA INDICATED THAT REVOLUTIONARY FORCES WERE UNLEASHED AND THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION COULD NOT STOP THEM. END SUMMARY

1. AT INVITATION OF AMB, DR. RAFAEL CORDOVA RIVAS, THE SUCCESSOR OF PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO AS PRESIDENT OF THE COALITION OF OPPOSITION PARTIES, UDEL, MET FOR LUNCH ON JUNE 16. FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPROVAL OF FURTHER AID LOANS CORDOVA HAD PUBLICLY DECLARED U.S. WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY FURTHER DEATHS OF ANTI-GON PROTESTORS. AMB EXPRESSED SORROW FOR LACK OF OPPOSITION UNDERSTANDING OF US POLICY AND THAT INSTEAD THE OPPOSITION APPEARED TO HAVE FALLEN INTO TRAP OF ECHOING SOMOZA'S LINE THAT LOANS WERE SIGN OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE GON. AMB CAREFULLY EXPLAINED U.S. POLICY REGARDING APPROVAL OF THE LOANS AND HOW THEY OPERATE AND THE FACT THE APPROVAL OF THESE LOANS DOES NOT SIGNIFY ANY CHANGE IN U.S.

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POLICY. LATER IN THE CONVERSATION CORDOVA STATED HE FELT THE EXPLANATION OF U.S. ASSISTANCE POLICY WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE CONVERSATION, AND HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN HIS FIRST IMPRESSIONS, WHICH HAD LED TO HIS EMOTIONAL PUBLIC REACTION, WAS WRONG.

2. CORDOVA DESCRIBED THE CURRENT SITUATION AS BEING INHOSPITABLE TO ANY POLITICAL ACTION AS FAR AS NEGOTIATING WITH THE GOVERNMENT. HE

SAID THE PEOPLE WOULD REJECT ANY PERSON OR PARTY ENGAGED IN SUCH ACTIVITY. HE POINTED TO THE OFFICIAL CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION AND SAID EVEN THEY DID NOT DARE TO BE SEEN DEALING WITH THE GON. CORDOVA SAID THERE IS EXPECTATION OF FURTHER MAJOR DISTURBANCES RELATED TO THE RETURN OF THE 12 AND NO POLITICAN WOULD TRY TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF THIS EVENT IN THE HOPE THAT IT MIGHT SUCCEED IN OVERTHROWING SOMOZA. HE SAID PERSONALLY HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IT WILL SUCCEED BUT, NEVERTHELESS, HE HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO ORGANIZE THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE FOR THE 12.

3. AMB AND POLOFF URGED CORDOVA TO TRY TO THINK AND ACT POLITICALLY IN PLANNING WHAT THE OPPOSITION MIGHT DO FOLLOWING A PERIOD OF FURTHER VIOLENCE, WHETHER OR NOT IT ACHIEVES SOMOZA'S OUSTING, BUT ESPECIALLY IF IT DOES NOT.
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